

Louisiana coast still hurting from storms, bracing for more

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

CAMERON, La. (AP) — Scores of people in coastal Louisiana are still living in campers on dirt mounds or next to cement slabs where their houses once stood. Unresolved insurance claims and a shortage of supply and labor are stymieing building efforts. And weather forecasters are warning of more possible devastation to come.

Nine months after two back-to-back hurricanes hammered their towns, residents are still struggling to recover — even as they brace for another onslaught of storms in the season that starts Tuesday.

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The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole, La., sits empty on Sunday, May 23, 2021. The church was heavily damaged during Hurricane Laura on Aug. 27, 2020.

(AP Photo/Rebecca Santana)







Louisiana coast still hurting from storms, bracing for more

Continued from Front

"We're scared to death for this next season," said Clarence Dyson, who is staying with his wife and four kids in a 35-foot-long (11-meterlong) camper with bunk beds while the home they had been renting in Cameron Parish undergoes repairs after Hurricane Laura. The parish — a Louisiana designation similar to a county — is made up of small communities on the southwestern coast where residents have lived for generations, either working in the shrimp industry or more recently at one of the area's liquefied natural gas plants.

The region features a stunning, peaceful landscape where families go crabbing together, birds perch on swaying strands of marsh grass and wind-gnarled oak trees grow on the long ridges — called cheniers — that rise above the marsh. About 70% of the parish is wetlands or open water.

Last fall, however, the area was battered by hurricanes that carved a path of destruction. On Aug. 27, Category 4 Hurricane Laura rammed into the coast near the town of Cameron with maximum winds of 150 mph (241 kph). Just six weeks later, Hurricane Delta, carrying 97-mph (156-kph) winds, made landfall about 10 miles (16 kilometers) away.

Of the several communities



On Saturday, May 22, 2021, Grand Chenier, La., resident Margaret Little looks at some decorations and objects that had been around her home and that she recovered after Hurricane Laura destroyed her home last year. (AP Photo/Rebecca Santana)

Associated Press

hit, the towns of Cameron, Creole and Grand Chenier, in Cameron Parish, took the worst beating. Laura flattened homes, nearly gutted the First Baptist church, stripped trees of their branches and leaves and toppled power lines.

Nine months later, the parish's electric lines have been replaced by ramrod straight poles. Oak trees denuded of leaves and branches are started to sprout new growth. Piles of debris have been hauled away. And Booth's Grocery Store, in business since 1957, is once again selling beer and bait.

But for most of the parish,

recovery is still an ongoing process. Cement slabs and mounds of dirt still mark the place where homes used to be. The sounds synonymous with rebuilding — the whine of circular saws cutting lumber or nail guns hammering shingles — are rare

Building contractors are in short supply; most are already slammed with work in the more densely populated, hurricane-damaged Lake Charles area farther north. Lumber prices have soared due to a trade dispute with Canada and a temporary shutdown in production when the coronavirus pandemic hit a

year ago.

Leaders of the First Baptist Church in Cameron have been trying to get a contractor to come out and give them a quote so they can apply for a building permit. Most of the church has been gutted to the studs, with pews currently stacked in the building's center. This is the fourth hurricane the small congregation has survived as well as one fire, said Cyndi Sellers, a longtime church member who was baptized and married there.

pute with Canada and In the meantime, the small a temporary shutdown in congregation holds serproduction when the coronavirus pandemic hit a of the parish's governing

body. They try to soften the space with plastic sunflowers and a blue cloth across the podium. A cross with a Bible verse attached to it stands on a table.

Sellers says rebuilding will help the congregation.

"They need to be able to worship together on Sunday, to be able to have that family and to have that support — emotional, spiritual support — to get through what they're going through," she said. "And they're going through a lot."

Sellers has gone through quite a bit herself. As a young child, she took refuge in the Cameron Parish courthouse when Hurricane Audrey hit in 1957, and has seen many other storms in the more than 60 years since. Finally, after Laura, she and her husband had had enough and decided to move inland to a town about two hours away.

"The stress that you go through when there's a storm in the Gulf, if you don't live on the coast you can't really imagine what it's like," she said.

Meanwhile, forecasters with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are predicting 13 to 20 named storms — six to 10 of which will become hurricanes and three to five of which will be major hurricanes — for this year's Atlantic season, which runs from June through November.

White House gives GOP 1 week to reach deal on infrastructure

By HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said Sunday time is running short for a bipartisan deal on infrastructure, indicating that President Joe Biden will look to act without Republican support if there is no consensus when Congress returns from its Memorial Day break.

"By the time that they return, which is June 7, just a week from tomorrow, we need a clear direction," Buttigieg said. "The president keeps saying inaction is not an option. And time is not unlimited here." He said the American

people "expect us to do something."

Biden plans to meet with lead Republican negotiator, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, this coming week and says he remains open to hearing from other GOP senators who are working on different proposals. But Biden has been eying the dwindling timeline for a deal, with an early June hearing scheduled on a House transportation bill that is widely seen as a building block for the big package he favors.

Democratic senators also plan on moving forward on a sweeping infrastructure package "with or without the support of Republican senators," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., wrote to Democrats on Friday. Biden had originally set a Memorial Day deadline for reaching a deal before he let that deadline slip back. The two sides remain far apart. Republican senators last week outlined a \$928 billion infrastructure proposal as a counteroffer to Biden's \$1.7 trillion proposal, and they said they would not go along with his plans to raise the corporate tax from 21% to 28% to pay for new spending.

Republicans want to shift unspent COVID-19 relief dollars to help

cover the costs, a nonstarter for many Democrats and a proposal that Biden is finding unworkable, a White House adviser told The Associated Press on Friday.

On Sunday, Capito said she remained hopeful the two sides can move closer to agreement.

"I think we can get to real compromise, absolutely, because we're both still in the game," she said. "I think the president told me himself that let's get this done. We realize this is not easy. I think we bring every idea that's on the table into the negotiations to see how we can achieve this and get it across the threshold."



Tulsa Race Massacre centennial events proceed amid hiccups

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Joi Mc-Condichie is a native of this city, but her life and career in public education kept her away from home for decades. When she returned to Tulsa from Los Angeles with her then-teenage son, she moved into a home just off of the Osage Prairie Trail on the city's north side.

It was on this trail that thousands of Black Tulsans fled the white mob that leveled their community on May 31-June 1, 1921, in the calamity that came to be known as the Tulsa Race Massacre.

"I believe God led me here because he had a task for me," McCondichie said.

McCondichie planned a march this weekend to memorialize those who ran from what is considered one of the worst and deadliest acts of racial violence in American history.

That march is just one of an array of events, culminating Tuesday with a visit by President Joe Biden, who is expected to join local leaders in marking the occasion.

The weekend was to include a keynote speech from former Georgia gubernatorial candidate and voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams and a performance by singer John Leg-



In this Friday, May 28, 2021 file photo, Tulsa Race Massacre survivors, from left, Hughes Van Ellis Sr., Lessie Benningfield Randle, and Viola Fletcher, wave and high-five supporters from a horse-drawn carriage before a march in Tulsa, Okla. Earlier in the month, the three gave testimony in a panel about the massacre in the U.S. House of Representatives.

(AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

end at Tulsa's ONEOK Field in the historic Greenwood district. But organizers canceled the event on Thursday, citing "unexpected circumstances with entertainers and speakers."

Representatives for Abrams and Legend did not respond to requests for com-

Law enforcement organizations around the U.S. received a bulletin this week from the Department of Homeland Security warning of the potential for environment."

targeted violence at the commemoration of the Tulsa massacre, according to a federal law enforcement official

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss a bulletin that was not publicly released, said authorities don't have credible intelligence about any specific plot to target the Tulsa events. But the alert was issued given the nature of the commemoration and the "volatile threat environment."

McCondichie said her late grandmother, Eldoris Mc-Condichie, was among the survivors in 1921 who streaming out of Greenwood, also known as Black Wall Street, the bustling city within a city that was the picture of Black wealth and entrepreneurial success.

On Tuesday morning, Joi McCondichie's "A Century Walk" will retrace Greenwood residents' escape. The walk will start along a 1.5 mile stretch of abandoned railroad tracks near

Greenwood and Archer avenues. And then the walkers will move north onto Osage Prairie Trail until they reach 56th Street, between Peoria Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, where a community celebration awaits.

Other events plan to feature the last three known living massacre survivors -- 106-year-old Lessie Benningfield Randle, 107-yearold Viola Fletcher, and 100-year-old Hughes Van Ellis. Last week, the three gave testimony in a panel about the massacre in the U.S. House of Representatives. "They will come down Black Wall Street, the historic Black Wall Street, in a horse and carriage," said Tiffany Crutcher, organizer of the Black Wall Street Legacy Festival, which is independent of the city's official commemorations.

"They'll lead us into what we feel will be a very powerful, powerful weekend to show deference and honor to the lives that were lost and the descendants and survivors who were still living," Crutcher said.

Other commemoration programs include a Greenwood Art Project art installation and the dedication of a prayer wall at Vernon AME Church, one of the few Greenwood structures that survived the massacre.

2 dead, 20+ injured in Florida banquet hall shooting

Associated Press

HIALEAH, Fla. (AP) — Two people died and an estimated 20 to 25 people were injured by gunfire in a shooting outside a banquet hall in South Florida, police said. The gunfire erupted early Sunday at the El Mula Banquet Hall in northwest Miami-Dade County, police told news outlets.

The banquet hall had been rented out for a concert. Three people got out of an SUV and opened fire into a crowd outside with assault rifles and handguns, police director Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III said. Authorities believe the shooting was targeted. "These are cold blooded murderers that

shot indiscriminately into a crowd and we will seek justice," Ramirez said in a tweet. Two people died at the scene, police said. As many as 25 people went to various hospitals for treatment. No arrests were immediately announced. "This type of gun violence has to stop. Every weekend it's the same thing," Ramirez said during an early morning news conference.Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis commented on the shooting on Twitter.

"We mourn the loss of the two victims and are praying for the recovery of the more than 20 people injured at El Mula Banquet Hall near Hialeah. We are working with local authorities to bring justice to the perpetrators. Justice needs to be swift & severe!" De-Santis tweeted. Democratic state Sen. Shevrin Jones said he wants DeSantis to do more than just pray. He's calling on the governor to sit down with Democrats to discuss meaningful ways of addressing gun violence.

"Thoughts and prayers have been going on for years and thoughts and prayers haven't done a damn thing inside the Black community — or any community when it comes to gun violence," Jones said. But he acknowledged Republicans are resistant to discuss the issue.



Angelica Green talks with the news media near the scene of a shooting outside a banquet hall near Hialeah, Fla., Sunday, May 30, 2021. Two people died and an estimated 20 to 25 people were injured in a shooting outside a banquet hall in South Florida, police said. The gunfire erupted early Sunday at the El Mula Banquet Hall in northwest Miami-Dade County, near Hialeah, police told news outlets. Green said her son and nephew were injured in the shooting.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)



Vets return to Memorial Day traditions as pandemic eases

BOSTON (AP) — A pair of military vets navigate the hilly, meandering paths in a historic cemetery in Boston, searching out soldiers' graves and planting American flags in front of them.

About 10 miles away, scores of other vets and volunteers do the same, placing more than 37,000 small flags on the downtown Boston Common — a sea of red, white and blue meant to symbolize all the Massachusetts soldiers killed in battle since the Revolutionary War. It's an annual tradition that returns in full this year after being significantly scaled back in 2020 because of the pandemic. In Boston and elsewhere, this holiday weekend will feel something closer to Memorial Days of old, as COVID-19 restrictions are fully lifted in many places.

"This Memorial Day almost has a different, better feeling to it," said Craig DeOld, a 50-year-old retired captain in the Army Reserve, as he took a breather from his flag duties at the Fairview Cemetery earlier this week. "We're breathing a sigh of relief that we've overcome another struggle, but we're also now able to return to what this holiday is all about — remembering our



Bob Workman of Boston, a retired Marine Gunnery Sgt., and past commander of the Boston Police VFW, replaces flags at veteran's graves ahead of Memorial Day on Thursday, May 27, 2021, in the Fairview Cemetery in Boston. After more than a year of isolation, American veterans are embracing plans for a more traditional Memorial Day. After more than a year of isolation, military veterans say wreath-laying ceremonies, barbecues at local vets halls and other familiar traditions are a welcome chance for them to reconnect with fellow service members and renew solemn traditions honoring the nation's war dead. (AP Photo/Josh Reynolds)

fallen comrades."

Around the nation, Americans will be able to pay tribute to fallen troops in ways that were impossible last year, when virus restrictions were in effect in many places. It will also be a time to remember the tens of thousands of veterans who died from COVID-19 and recommit to vacci-

nating those who remain reluctant. Art delaCruz, a 53-year-old retired Navy commander in Los Angeles leads the Veterans Coalition for Vaccination, said his group has been encouraging inoculated veterans to volunteer at vaccine sites to dispel myths and help assuage concerns, many of which are also shared by current service members.

"We understand it's a personal choice, so we try to meet people where they are," said delaCruz, who is also president of Team Rubicon, a disaster-response nonprofit made up of military veterans.

There's no definitive tally for coronavirus deaths or vaccinations among American

military vets, but Department of Veterans Affairs data shows more than 12,000 have died and more than 2.5 million have been inoculated against CO-VID-19 out of the roughly 9 million veterans enrolled in the agency's programs.

The isolation of the pandemic has also been particularly hard on veterans, many of whom depend on kinship with fellow service members to cope with wartime trauma, says Jeremy Butler, a 47-year-old Navy Reserve officer in New York who heads the advocacy group Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

"We're reuniting now, but it's been an extremely challenging year," he said. "To have those connections cut off — the counseling sessions, the VA appointments, social events with other vets — those are so important to maintaining mental health."

But for the families of veterans who survived the horrors of war, only to be felled by COVID-19, Memorial Day can reopen barely healed wounds.

In western Massachusetts, Susan Kenney says the death of her 78-year-old father last April from the virus still remains raw.

More states ease lingering virus rules as vaccine rates rise



Natalia Dubom, of Honduras, gets the Johnson & Johnson CO-VID-19 vaccine at Miami International Airport, Friday, May 28, 2021, in Miami. The vaccine was offered to all passengers arriving at the airport. Florida's Emergency Management Agency is running the program through Sunday. (AP Photo/Marta La-

By DAVID KLEPPER **Associated Press** PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Just in time for Memorial

Day weekend, more U.S. cities and states are shrugaina off linaerina COVID-19 restrictions as vaccination rates rise and the number of infections falls.

Massachusetts lifted a mask requirement Saturday, a day after New Jersey dropped its mandate. In New York City and Chicago, officials reopened public beaches, though winds and cool temperatures kept crowds away.

"Welcome back, Chicago," Mayor Lori Lightfoot said in a video announcement. "The lakefront is open."

Chicago's Navy Pier also reopened retail stores and restaurants, carnival rides, and tour boats and cruises after the pandemic forced monthslong closures at the busy tourist destination.

It's one more sign of progress that reflects increasingly positive health data. On Saturday, Illinois' Depart- said. "Our readers and our ment of Public Health reported 802 new confirmed and probable infections, the second-lowest one-day total in the last six months. For businesses nationwide, the improving outlook and long holiday weekend offered a chance to welcome customers back to

Midtown Scholar Bookstore in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, opened its doors to customers for the first time in nearly 14 months Friday. Masks are still required.

in-person shopping.

The business had switched to internet orders, sidewalk sales and virtual author events to survive the pandemic.

"We had to get creative, we had to pivot," store manager Alex Brubaker

customers have been incredible. It's a rainy weekend, but the bookstore is f∪ll."

Minnesota lifted all statewide coronavirus restrictions for bars and restaurants Friday, though local governments can maintain their own social distancing and mask rules.

About 50% of the U.S. population has now received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, according to the latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 40% of the population is fully vaccinated.

Vermont boasts the nation's highest vaccination rate, with nearly 70% of its residents having received at least one dose. \square



Netanyahu could lose PM job as rivals attempt to join forces

By JOSEF FEDERMAN **Associated Press**

JERUSALEM (AP) — The head of a small hard-line party on Sunday said he would try to form a unity government with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's opponents, taking a major step toward ending the 12-year rule of the Israeli leader.

In a nationwide address, Yamina party leader Naftali Bennett said he had decided to join forces with the country's opposition leader, Yair Lapid.

"It's my intention to do my utmost in order to form a national unity government along with my friend Yair Lapid, so that, God willing, together we can save the country from a tailspin and return Israel to its course," Bennett said.

The pair have until Wednesday to complete a deal in which they are expected to each serve two years as prime minister in a rotation deal. Lapid's Yesh Atid party said negotiating teams were to meet later Sunday. A unity government would end the cycle of deadlock that has plunged the country into four inconclusive elections over the past two years. It also would end, at least for the time being, the record-setting tenure of Netanyahu, the most dominant figure in Israeli politics over the past three decades.

In his own televised statement, Netanyahu accused Bennett of betraying the Israeli right wing.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listens as Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks during a joint statement after their meeting at the Prime Minister's office, Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in Jerusalem, Israel. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, Pool)

He urged nationalist politicians who have joined the coalition talks not to establish what he called a "leftist government."

"A government like this is a danger to the security of Israel, and is also a danger to the future of the state," he said.

Bennett, a former Netanyahu aide turned rival, said he was taking the dramatic step to prevent yet another election. While sharing Netanyahu's nationalist ideology, Bennett said there was no feasible way for the hard-line right wing to form a governing majority in par-

"A government like this will succeed only if we work together as a group," he He said everyone "will need to postpone fulfilling all their dreams. We will focus on what can be done, instead of fighting all day on what's impossible."

Each of the past four elections was seen as a referendum on Netanyahu -- who has become a polarizing figure as he stands trial on corruption charges — with each ending in deadlock. Netanyahu is desperate to stay in power while he is on trial. He has used his office as a stage to rally support and lash out against police, prosecutors and the media.

If his opponents fail to form a government and new elections are triggered, it would give him another chance at seeing the election of a parliament that is in favor of granting him immunity from prosecution. But if they succeed, he would find himself in the much weaker position of opposition leader and potentially find himself facing unrest in his Likud party.

Netanyahu, who has accused Bennett of betraying the Israeli right wing, planned a televised statement later Sunday.

In order to form a government, a party leader must secure the support of a 61seat majority in parliament. Because no single party controls a majority on its own, coalitions are usually built with smaller partners.

As leader of the largest party, Netanyahu was given the first opportunity by the country's figurehead president to form a coalition. But he was unable to secure a majority with his traditional religious and nationalist allies.

Netanyahu even attempted to court a small Islamist Arab party but was thwarted by a small ultranationalist party with a racist anti-Arab agenda. Although Arabs make up some 20% of Israel's population, an Arab party has never before sat in an Israeli coalition government.

After Netanyahu's failure to form a government, Lapid was then given four weeks to cobble together a coalition. He has until Wednesday to complete the task. Lapid already faced a difficult challenge, given the broad range of parties in the anti-Netanyahu bloc that have little in common. They include dovish leftwing parties, a pair of rightwing nationalist parties, including Bennett's Yamina, and most likely the Islamist United Arab List.

Lapid's task was made even more difficult after war broke out with Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip on May 10. His coalition talks were put on hold during the 11 days of fighting. with Wednesday's deadline looming, negotiations have kicked into high gear. Lapid has reached coalition deals with three other parties so far. If he finalizes a deal with Bennett, the remaining partners are expected to quickly fall into place.

Pope invites Lebanese Christians to Vatican for peace prayer

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis has invited representatives of Lebanon's Christian community to the Vatican on July 1 for a day of prayer and reflection "about the worrisome situation in the country."

Francis announced the encounter during his Sunday noon blessing, saying the aim was to "pray together for the gift of peace and stability." He asked for prayers ahead of the meeting and for Lebanon itself so the country can enjoy "a more serene future." Lebanon, a Mediterranean nation of 5 million, has the largest percentage of Christians in the Middle East and is the only Arab country with a Christian head of lock, the country has been state. Christians make up a without a government third of the population.

Lebanon has been enduring an unparalleled financial, economic and political crisis for months, which has been worsened by the coronavirus pandemic. Francis met in April at the Vatican with Prime Minister-

designate Saad Hariri and urged all Lebanese political leaders to "urgently commit themselves to the benefit of the nation."

Because of political deadsince the Cabinet resigned days after a massive blast at Beirut's port on Aug. 4, killing 211, wounding more than 6,000 and damagina entire neighborhoods.

In recent weeks, with foreign currency reserves dwindling at the central

bank, Lebanon has been witnessing severe shortage in medicines as well as fuel, with people having to wait in line at gas stations to fill their cars. Electricity cuts last more than 12 hours a day. Cardinal Bechara Rai, head of the Maronite Catholic church that is the largest in Lebanon, has criticized the country's political class and urged them to quickly form a Cabinet to bring Lebanon out of its crisis. Excuses are not convincing anyone regarding

delays in the formation of a government," Rai said last week. "It looks like Cabinet formation is in a long vacation. The stalemate is a killing to the country and the people. It must stop."

During his meeting with Hariri, Francis reaffirmed his desire to visit Lebanon as soon as conditions permit. The July 1 meeting, presumably, will be an opportunity for the pope to express his solidarity now, given that a visit in the near future isn't possible.



UK PM Boris Johnson marries fiancee in private ceremony

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has married his fiancée, Carrie Symonds, in a small private ceremony that came at the end of a tumultuous week during which a former top aide said he was unfit for office. The couple wed Saturday at the Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral in front of a small group of friends and family, Johnson's office said Sunday, confirming newspaper reports that were published overnight. Photos taken after the ceremony in the garden of the prime minister's residence showed Symonds in a long white dress and floral headband. Johnson wore a dark suit.

"The Prime Minister and Ms. Symonds were married yesterday afternoon in a small ceremony at Westminster Cathedral," Downing Street said. "The couple will celebrate their wedding with family and friends next summer."

The couple have reportedly sent save-the-date cards to family and friends for a celebration on July 30, 2022. Under current coronavirus restrictions in England, no more than 30 people can attend a wedding.



In this image released Sunday May 30, 2021, by Downing Street, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Carrie Johnson pose together for a photo in the garden of 10 Downing Street after their wedding on Saturday. Boris Johnson and his fiancée Carrie Symonds are newlyweds, according to an announcement from his Downing Street office saying they were married Saturday in a small private ceremony in London. (Rebecca Fulton/Downing Street via AP)

Johnson, 56, and Symonds, a 33-year-old Conservative Party insider and environmental advocate, announced their engagement in February 2020. Their son, Wilfred, was born in April last year.

The marriage is Johnson's third. He has at least five other children from previous relationships.

Johnson's previous mar- and so was free to marry riages would not have in the cathedral this week-

stopped him from having a Catholic wedding because they didn't take place in the Catholic church, Matt Chinery, an ecclesiastical and canon lawyer, told Times Radio.

"In the eyes of the Catholic church, Boris Johnson woke up last week as somebody who wasn't married and had never been married and so was free to marry in the cathedral this week-

end," he said. Johnson was baptized as a Catholic but he was confirmed as a member of the Church of England as a teenager. The last British prime minister

The last British prime minister to marry in office was Lord Liverpool in 1822.

The wedding followed a difficult political week for Johnson.

His former top aide, Dominic Cummings, on Wednesday told lawmakers that Johnson had bungled the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic and said he was "unfit for the job."

Britain has Europe's highest

coronavirus death toll, at

over 128,000 people, but it has also produced one of the world's most successful vaccination programs, inoculating 74% of its adults. Daily deaths have plummeted to single digits of late, compared to over 1,800 one day in January. On Friday, a government ethics adviser released his long-awaited findings on the "cash for curtains" scandal in which Johnson was criticized for failing to disclose that a wealthy Conservative Party donor had paid for the redecoration of the prime minister's official residence in London. Although Johnson later settled the bill, the inquiry found that Johnson had acted "unwisely" in carry-

cleared of misconduct.
The opposition Labour Party
was not giving Johnson any
space for a honeymoon,
with one Labour lawmaker, Jon Trickett, suggesting
that the weekend wedding
was "a good way to bury
this week's bad news."

ing out the work without

knowing where the money

had come from. He was

UK: Anti-immigration protest blocks traffic in port of Dover



People take part in an anti-immigration protest in Dover, England, Saturday, May 29, 2021, demonstrating against the journeys made by refugees crossing the English Channel to Kent. (Andrew Matthews/PA via AP)

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Anti-immigration demonstrators protesting the rising numbers of people attempting to reach the U.K. by crossing the English Channel in small boats blocked trucks traveling to a cargo terminal in Dover on Saturday.

Carrying the England flag and chanting "English streets," about 50 demonstrators disrupted travel into the busy port. A heavy police presence was in the area as authorities anticipated protests over the long holiday weekend that marks the unofficial start of summer.

Improving weather emboldens migrants to cross the 21-mile stretch of water between France and Britain. More than 3,100 people have crossed the channel in small boats so far this year, almost double the number during same period in 2020.

Dover has been the site of previous antiimmigrant protests. A demonstration in September also brought traffic into the port to a standstill.



Judge: Blame in Italy cable car deaths rests with technician

By NICOLE WINFIELD

ROME (AP) — The three suspects in Italy's cable car disaster that killed 14 people were allowed to leave prison Sunday after a judge indicated that for now blame fell on just one: a service technician who intentionally disabled the car's emergency brake because it kept locking spontaneously.

Judge Donatella Banci Buonamici said there wasn't sufficient evidence suggesting the owner of the Mottarone cable car company, Luigi Nerini, or the maintenance chief, Enrico Perocchio, knew that the technician had deactivated the brake on several occasions even before the May 23 disaster.

After evaluating prosecutors' request for continued detention of the three, Buonamici determined there was no flight risk, ordered the managers freed while allowing the technician, Gabriele Tadini, to leave under house arrest. The three men, who remain under investigation, left Verbania prison early Sunday, accompanied by their lawyers.

Fourteen people were killed when the lead cable of the Mottarone funicular overlooking Lake Maggiore in northern Italy snapped and the emergency brake failed to prevent the cable



A rescuer takes a picture of a clamp that was placed on an emergency brake, as search for evidence continues in the wreckage of a cable car after it collapsed near the summit of the Stresa-Mottarone line in the Piedmont region, northern Italy, Wednesday, May 26, 2021. Police have made three arrests in the cable car disaster that killed 14 people after an investigation showed a clamp, placed on the brake as a patchwork repair effort, prevented the brake from engaging after the lead cable snapped. (AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

car from reeling at high speed backward down the support line. The cable car pulled off the line entirely after passing the support pylon, crashed to the ground and then rolled down the mountain until it was stopped by a stand of trees.

The lone survivor, 5-yearold Eitan Biran, remains hospitalized but conscious, with his aunt looking after him. Eitan's Israeli-born parents, his younger brother and his great-grandparents were killed in the disaster and their remains were sent back to Israel.

It isn't known why the pulling cable snapped.

The Vipiteno, Italy-based company that maintains the lift, Leitner SpA, has said "no irregularities were detected" during the November 2020 magnetic testing of the lead cable, and that every other annual check hadn't turned up problems either.

Tadini admitted during questioning that he had left a fork-shaped bracket on the cable car's emergency brake to disable it because it kept locking on its own while the car was in service, said his lawyer, Marcello Perillo.

Speaking to reporters outside Verbania prison, Perillo said Tadini never would have left the bracket in place if he thought doing so might endanger passengers

"He is not a criminal and would never have let people go up with the braking system blocked had he known that there was even a possibility that the cable would have broken," Perillo said. "He can't even begin to get his head around the fact that the cable broke." Based on Tadini's testimony, prosecutors had hypothesized that the managers knew about the jerryrigged brake and had an economic reason in using it to keep the funicular running. Prosecutor Olimpia Bossi said the owner would have had to have taken the whole lift out of service for the more extensive, "radical" repairs that were necessary.

The lift, which features four large tram cars bringing passengers up and down the mountain, only reopened on April 26 after a lengthy COVID-19 shutdown and was gearing up for the summer tourist season in a picturesque part of northern Italy.

But lawyers for Nerini and Perocchio said the two denied knowing anything about Tadini's maneuver and said they had no reason to let a cable car without a brake system operate. The judge concurred, noting that neither they nor Leitner, the maintenance company, would have had an interest in doing so.

In Mexico, cartels are hunting down police at their homes

By MARK STEVENSON

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The notoriously violent Jalisco cartel has responded to Mexico's "hugs, not bullets" policy with a policy of its own: The cartel kidnapped several members of an elite police force in the state of Guanajuato, tortured them to obtain names and addresses of fellow officers and is now hunting down and killing police at their homes, on their days off, in front of their families.

It is a type of direct attack on officers seldom seen outside of the most gang-plagued nations of Central America and poses the most direct challenge yet to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's policy of avoiding violence and rejecting any war on the cartels.

But the cartel has already declared war on the government, aiming to eradicate an elite state force known as the Tactical Group which the gang accuses of treating its members unfairly.

"If you want war, you'll get a war. We have already shown that we know where you are. We are coming for all of you," reads a professionally printed banner signed by the cartel and hung on a building in Guanajuato in May.

"For each member of our firm (CJNG) that you arrest, we are going to kill two of your Tacticals, wherever they are, at their homes, in their patrol vehicles," the banner read, referring to the cartel by its Spanish initials.

Guanajuato-based security analyst David Saucedo said there have been many cases. "A lot of them (officers) have decided to desert. They took their families, abandoned their homes and they are fleeing and in hiding," Saucedo said. "The CJNG is hunting the elite police force of Guanajuato."

Numbers of victims are hard to come by, but Poplab, a news cooperative in Guanajuato, said at least seven police officers have been killed on their days off so far this year. In January, gunmen went to the home of a female state police officer, killed her husband, dragged her away, tortured her and dumped her bullet-ridden body.

Guanajuato has had the highest number of police killed of any Mexican state since at least 2018, according to Poplab. Between 2018 and May 12, a total of 262 police have been killed, or an average of about 75 officers each year — more than are killed by gunfire or other assaults on average each year in the entire United States, which has 50 times Guanajuato's population.

The problem in Guanajuato has gotten so bad that the state government published a special decree on May 17 to provide an unspecified amount of funding for protection mechanisms for police and prison officials.

"They have been forced to quickly leave their homes and move, so that organized crimes groups cannot find them," it reads.



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NAAT molecular (PCR):
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Locations: The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 10:00 PM) Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM) Budget Car Rental near Soprano's Piano Bar (5:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Center Visit our newest Location on Palm Beach!

PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Center just opened a third walk-in location on Palm Beach at Budget Car Rental next to Soprano's Piano Bar. The other two locations are at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill.

All three fit2fly test centers offer your best option for the post vacation COVID-19 test which has been a requirement since January 26th 2021 by the U.S. before returning home. All passengers going to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative (antigen or PCR) COVID-19 test result of a test taken maximum three days prior to boarding the flight, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. MedCare's testing centers in and close to the hotels provide you with an easy and secure solution.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that is specialized in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servicio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servicio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

Rapid PCR

As Aruba resumes to receive more and more visitors each month, one thing has become very clear: testing is critical. Thus far MedCare Clinic has been offering high-volume laboratory testing with results in 24 hours or less. The newest service on the market is Rapid PCR, where you receive your results in minutes not hours.

Just steps away from you

The Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers are located at the Cove Mall, near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill, and now also





at Budget car rental next to Soprano's Piano Bar. These three locations at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome. It is recommended that the tests are done timely, as the negative test is only accepted if taken up to three days before boarding your flight. MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 10 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:30 AM until 2 PM. The Newest location at Budget Car Rental next to Soprano's Piano Bar is open daily from 5 PM to 9 PM.

At your hotel

For a selection of hotels/resorts in Aruba, Med-Care has setup Testing Centers on site. The hotels/resorts at which we have a testing site are: Divi All Inclusive, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Golf, Divi Phoenix, Divi Tamarijn, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, Hyatt Regency, Renaissance, and the Ritz-Carlton Resort. Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

Costs and timing

Passengers must be tested with a viral test that could be either an Antigen Test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The price for the Antigen Test is only \$50, and the PCR Test is available, for \$125, The

new rapid PCR will be \$150 (results in 30 minutes.) MedCare offers the easier and substantially cheaper Antigen Test that is acceptable for travel to the U.S. as per the CDC guidelines. Pre-travel testing is not covered by the Aruban visitor insurance. Please contact your insurance company to verify if testing costs are insured. Results are e-mailed to you within 24 hours of testing.

Private bookings

For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person.

For more information, please contact:

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Harbour House Aruba: 80 % sold, construction in final phase: you are invited to come and have a look!

ORANJESTAD — Boosting a buyers confidence comes with a strong sales team, an established company name and experience. The Perret Group are the owners of among others Harbour House Aruba and they live up to the expectation. With 80 % of the condominiums sold in their residence they can do nothing more but be content. Take a look at this cool site reflecting best of two worlds: beach and city.

The residence consists of 94 units in the former 7-level Marazul building at the historical location of Paardenbaai. Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fastselling their studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so



happy to be the owner here, Also, the organization is amazing. We are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

Boardwalk

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House building a boardwalk is constructed allowing you to stroll along the







waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace of dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbor of Oraniestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 30.000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks.

City elegance combined with tropical tranquility is what you get here. The panoramas are breathtaking. Can you imagine yourself with your favorite cup of joe, gazing out over the ocean while the city of Oranjestad is awakening? The new trend is to live tinier but comfy and Harbour House meets this market demand with the perfect product. Everything is close, you are centrally located, just a step away from the beach though right in the main area in Oranjestad. You have history to tell and you are within walking distance to all Oranjestad has to offer. What else do vou need?□

For more information: https://harbourhousearuba.com



Our locals, Our pride

SAN NICOLAS — Meet Ras Ras, an Aruban fireman with a passion for the Aruban Culture. His love for everything that has to do with our heritage is visible in his day to day life at his own museum. Museo di Antiguedad "Nos Bieunan". Museum of Antiqueness "our elderly".

Since young Ras has been taught to fix sewing machines. So whenever someone needed to fix a machine they would call him. While fixing a broken sewing machine at a home some years back he saw that the owners of the house had a very old sewing machine thrown in the backyard and he asked if he can have it. He took it home, fixed it and from there he got the idea to start collecting old artifacts that people wanted to throw away or had no use for it. For Ras all these artifacts have a special meaning, a value, they all tell the story of our ancestors and our heritage. That is why he is trying to "rescue" all artifacts that tells a story of our past.

The collection started in his garage at home. More and more artifacts were gathered that it even got Museo di Antiguedad





so crowded that he started putting them in his living room and continued to spread all over the house. That is where the idea came up to open up his house for the public. The need to educate specially kids but also people of all ages about our history and our ancestors is what lead him to open his own museum at his house. He feels joy when seeing kids interested in knowing the history of the artifact, how it works, especially since kids nowadays only know the digital era and everything is so easy to get. He also loves to share his knowledge of these artifacts and their original names in our Papiamento language.

At his museum you will find artifacts dated from the early 1600's. From antique furniture, pots, pans, musical instruments, paintings, tools, lamps, sewing machines and so much more. There is a collection of

around 1000 artifacts. He is in love with his whole collection but his favorite artifacts are a music box which was almost impossible for him to get but after a lot of negotiations he finally got it and also a cash register of over 100 years old that took him 8 years to get in his possession.

He still has a dream he wants to see come true this is to have a "Museum on Wheels". A bus with all kinds of artifacts which he can drive all around the island and take it to all schools and closer to the tourists. The museum is located at Rooi Master 5E, near Savaneta. For more information contact him on 5632121 or on facebook at Museo di Antiguedad "Nos Bieunan". Reservations are required.

Vaccination Status in Aruba

ORANJESTAD - According to ourworldindata.org. Aruba leads as a country in the Caribbean with the highest vaccines administered per 100 inhabitants.

Aruba's recovery appears to be on the right track. Tourists are excited to travel again and are looking for a travel destination where a high percentage of their population has been vaccinated. A destination where they can be sure that the spread of the virus is limited or minimal. Aruba is now the island in the Caribbean with the highest number of people vaccinated per 100 inhabitants and ranks second in the world as the best vaccinated country. This is certainly reason enough to be proud as a country



According to for visitors will be dropped when collective immunity is reached in Aruba. Herd immunity will be reached when 85% of the local population is vaccinated. Herd immunity is important for the island, because it means being on the road to re-

Croes, CEO of the Aruba local people, tourism and The more locals vaccinate, who are fully vaccinated Tourism Authority, testing economy. The vaccination the less chance there is are allowed to travel to rate has to be increased in order to reach the island's goal of 85% vaccinations of the population. Right now 60.000+ locals had been vaccinated. This represents 62% of the island's population. A total of 67% of the population over 60 years

Ronella covery for the health of our old are fully vaccinated. As of June 1, 2021 locals of the virus infecting new people and keep on mutating into different strains, which our current vaccines offer no protection against. Vaccinations are taking place on appointments, including door to door efforts to reach all neighborhoods

on the island.

Vaccination Status in Aruba

These are the local stats regarding corona vaccination as of May 19, 2021.

- 62.914 locals are vaccinated
- 12.170 locals received 1st dose
- 50.744 locals received 2nd dose
- 113.658 total vaccines applied

and from Aruba, without the requirement to do a corona test.

Wearing a face masks is still mandatory in Aruba even if you are fully vaccinated, for both residents and visitors.

Egypt bets on ancient finds to pull tourism out of pandemic

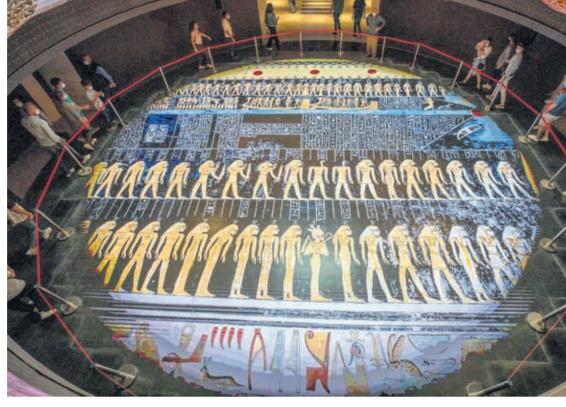
CAIRO (AP) — Workers dig and ferry wheelbarrows laden with sand to open a new shaft at a bustling archaeological site outside of Cairo, while a handful of Egyptian archaeologists supervise from garden chairs. The dig is at the foot of the Step Pyramid of Djoser, arguably the world's oldest pyramid, and is one of many recent excavations that are yielding troves of ancient artifacts from the country's largest archaeological site.

As some European countries re-open to international tourists, Egypt has already been trying for months to attract them to its archaeological sites and museums. Officials are betting that the new ancient discoveries will set it apart on the mid- and post-pandemic tourism market. They need visitors to come back in force to inject cash into the tourism industry, a pillar of the economy.

But like countries elsewhere, Egypt continues to battle the coronavirus, and is struggling to get its people vaccinated. The country has, up until now, received only 5 million vaccines for its population of 100 million people, according to its Health Ministry. In early May, the government announced that 1 million people had been vaccinated, though that number is believed to be higher now.

In the meantime, authorities have kept the publicity machine running, focused on the new discoveries.

In November, archaeologists announced the discovery of at least 100 ancient coffins dating back to the Pharaonic Late Period and Greco-Ptolemaic era, along with 40 gilded statues found 2,500 years after they were first buried. That came a month after the



FILE - In this April 24, 2021 file photo, people visit the new National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Old Cairo, Saturday, April 24, 2021. As some European countries re-open to international tourists, Egypt has already been trying for months to attract them to its archaeological sites and museums. Officials are betting that the new ancient discoveries will set it apart on the mid-and post-pandemic tourism market (AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty, File)

discovery of 57 other coffins at the same site, the necropolis of Saqqara that includes the step pyramid. "Saqqara is a treasure," said Tourism and Antiquities Minister Khaled el-Anany while announcing the November discovery, estimating that only 1% of what the site contains has been unearthed so far.

"Our problem now is that we don't know how we can possibly wow the world after this," he said.

If they don't, it certainly won't be for lack of trying. In April, Zahi Hawass, Egypt's best-known archaeologist, announced the discovery of a 3,000-year-old lost city in southern Luxor, complete with mud brick houses, artifacts and tools from pharaonic times. It dates back to Amenhotep III of the 18th dynasty, whose reign (1390–1353 B.C.) is considered a golden era for ancient Egypt.

That discovery was fol-

lowed by a made-for-TV parade celebrating the transport of 22 of the country's prized royal mummies from central Cairo to their new resting place in a massive facility farther south in the capital, the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

The Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh is now home to an archaeological museum, as is Cairo's International Airport, both opened in recent months. And officials have also said they still plan to open the massive new Grand Egyptian Museum next to the Giza Pyramids by January, after years of delays. Entrance fees for archeological sites have been lowered, as has the cost of tourist visas.

The government has for years played up its ancient history as a selling point, as part of a yearslong effort to revive the country's battered tourism industry. It was badly hit during and

after the popular uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak and the ensuring unrest. The coronavirus dealt it a similar blow, just as it was getting back on its feet.

In 2019, foreign tourism's revenue stood at \$13 billion. Egypt received some 13.1 million foreign tourists—reaching pre-2011 levels for the first time. But in 2020, it greeted only 3.5 million foreign tourists, according to the minister el-Anany.

At the newly opened National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, Mahmoud el-Rays, a tour guide, was leading a small group of European tourists at the hall housing the royal mummies.

"2019 was a fantastic year," he said. "But corona reversed everything. It is a massive blow."

Tourism traffic strengthened in the first months of 2021, el-Anany, the minister, told The Associated Press in a recent interview, though he did not give specific figures. He was optimistic that more would continue to come year-round.

"Egypt is a perfect destination for post-COVID in that our tourism is really an open-air tourism," he said. But it remains to be seen

if the country truly has the virus under control. It has recorded a total of 14,950 deaths from the virus and is still seeing more than a thousand new cases daily. Like other countries, the real numbers are believed to be much higher. In Egypt, though, authorities have arrested doctors and silenced critics who questioned the government's response, so there are fears that information on the true cost of the virus may have been suppressed from the beginning.

Egypt also had a trying experience early on in the pandemic, when it saw a coronavirus outbreak on one of its Nile River cruise boats. It first closed its borders completely until the summer of 2020, but later welcomed tourists back, first to Red-Sea resort towns and now to the heart of the country — Cairo and the Nile River Valley that hosts most of its famous archaeological sites. Visitors still require a negative CO-VID-19 test result to enter the country.

In a further cause for optimism, Russia said in April that it plans to resume direct flights to Egypt's Red Sea resort towns. Moscow stopped the flights after the local Islamic State affiliate bombed a Russian airliner over the Sinai Peninsula in October 2015, killing all on board.

Amanda, a 36-year-old engineer from Austria, returned to Egypt in May. It was her second visit in four years. She visited the Egyptian Museum, the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization and Islamic Cairo, in the capital's historic center. She had planned to come last year, but the pandemic interfered.

"Once they opened, I came," she said. "It was my dream to see the Pyramids again."

he did not give specific figures. He was optimistic that more would continue to come year-round.

"Egypt is a perfect destination for post-COVID in El-Rays, the tour guide, says that while he's seeing tour-ists starting to come in larger numbers, he knows a full recovery will not happen overnight.

"It will take some time to return to before corona," he said.





CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Out of style Half of **45** Flu a 1960s symptom rock group 46 Deeply 6 Writer impressed Asimov 47 Runs 11 Wide away

awake 48 Rockies 12 Numerical resort comparison

DOWN

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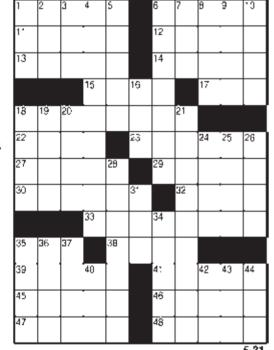
Saturday's answer

10 "Fargo" 31 Tree's director blood 2 Pub brew 16 Hold up 34 TV, radio, 18 Moist 3 Parrot or etc.

19 Spoken 35 Jazz bit 20 Arm bone 36 Cain's

21 Cassoulet brother ingredients 37 Hand over 24 Writer 40 Last letter Bellow 42 Spigot 6 Smelter's

43 Farm need 25 Not busy 7 Jazz horn 26 Sediment female 28 Tries 8 Fighting 44 Lion's 9 Assistant home again



AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

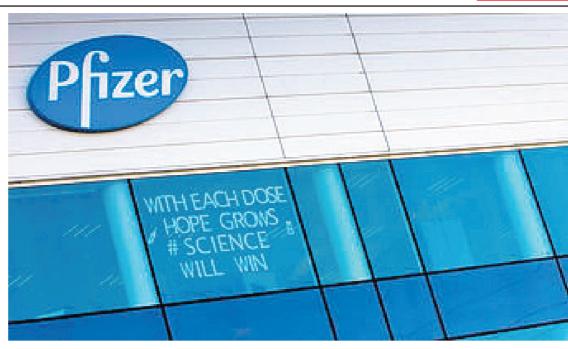
5-31CRYPTOQUOTE

DKWX GJTS LJT $G \cup X J$ L K ZMSUXJ MX, LJTP CHRT MXATYUTOT K M B K G S

AKKBXLUS

Saturday's Cryptoquote: I'M ALWAYS MAKING A COMEBACK BUT NOBODY EVER TELLS ME WHERE I'VE BEEN. — BILLIE HOLIDAY

HWOTBLUXUSD. — WHSUTY



FILE - In this Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021 file photo, a sign is pasted into an upper window at Pfizer manufacturing center in Puurs, Belgium. The European Union cemented its support for Pfizer-BioNTech and its novel COVID-19 vaccine technology, Saturday, May 8, 2021 by agreeing to a massive contract extension for a potential 1.8 billion doses through 2023. The new contract, which has the backing of the EU member states, will entail not only the production of the vaccines, but also making sure that all the essential components should be sourced from the EU. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo, File)

European regulator recommends Pfizer shot for children 12-15

BERLIN (AP) — The European Medicines Agency on Friday recommended that the use of the coronavirus vaccine made by Pfizer and BioNTech be expanded to children ages 12 to 15, a decision that offers younger and less atrisk populations across the continent access to a CO-VID-19 shot for the first time. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was the first one granted authorization across the European Union in December, when it was given the green light for use in anyone 16 and over. Since then, about 173 million doses have been administered in the EU, which is about three-quarters of all vaccine shots given so far in the 27-nation bloc.

"Extending the protection of a safe and effective vaccine in this younger population is an important step forward in the fight against this pandemic," Marco Cavaleri, head of health threats and vaccine strategy at the Amsterdambased FMA said

The EU regulator authorized the vaccine for younger adolescents after receiving data from the United States showing it to be highly effective against infection. In a study involving 2,000

got COVID-19, compared with 16 in a control group that received a placebo, Cavaleri said.

"The vaccine was welltolerated, and the side effects in this age group were very much similar (to) what we've seen in young adults and not raising major concern at this point in time," he said.

The EMA decision needs to be rubber-stamped by the European Commission, and national regulators can decide whether the vaccine will be offered to children under 16 in each country.

The recommendation follows similar decisions by regulators in Canada and the U.S. last month, as rich countries slowly approach their vaccination targets for adults and look to immunize as many people as possible.

Researchers will continue to monitor the Pfizer-BioN-Tech vaccine's long-term protection and safety in study participants for anthe relatively small study on which authorization was based.

"Once the vaccine will be deployed, it will be imporwho received the vaccine ing the performance of the ened by COVID-19.

vaccine and to determine if there is any safety issue," he said, adding that recent months had shown Europe's reporting system is able to detect possible problems in vaccines.

The EMA last month added warnings about the possible risk of rare blood clots in people who had received a dose of vaccines made by AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson, after some countries reported a very small number of the millions vaccinated had experienced rare blood clots.

Most COVID-19 vaccines worldwide have been authorized for adults, who are at higher risk of severe disease and death from the coronavirus. But vaccinating children of all ages could be critical to stopping outbreaks, since some research has shown older children may play a role in spreading the virus even though they don't typically fall seriously ill with COV-ID-19.

other two years. Cavaleri In the U.S., children repacknowledged that rare resent about 14% of the adverse effects may not country's coronavirus cases have been picked up in and at least 316 have died, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Doctors have also identified a rare inflammatory syndrome in a very small adolescents, none of those tant to continue monitor- proportion of children sick-

Gavin MacLeod, 'Love Boat' captain, dies at 90

By LYNN ELBER AP Television classic of situation com-**Writer** edies. It produced two spi-

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gavin MacLeod, the veteran supporting actor who achieved fame as sardonic TV news writer Murray Slaughter on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and stardom playing cheerful Capt. Stubing on "The Love Boat," has died. He was 90. MacLeod died early Saturday at his home in Palm Desert, California, said Stephanie Steele Zalin, his stepdaughter. She attributed his death to his age, saying he had been well until very recently.

"He had one of the most amazing, fun blasts of a life of anybody I know. He enjoyed every minute of it," Steele Zalin said. "I don't even think in his wildest dreams he dreamt of the life that he ended up having and creating."

She called him the "best, sweetest, purest guy."

Ed Asner, who played opposite MacLeod on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," said on Twitter that "my heart is broken. Gavin was my brother, my partner in crime (and food) and my comic conspirator."

Known to sitcom fans for his bald head and wide smile, MacLeod toiled in near anonymity for more than a decade, appearing on dozens of TV shows and in several movies before landing the part of Murray in 1970.

He had originally tested for Moore's TV boss, Lou Grant, the role that went to Asner. Realizing he wasn't right for playing the blustery, short-tempered TV newsroom leader, MacLeod asked if he could try instead for the wisecracking TV news writer, his jokes often at the expense of the dimwitted anchorman Ted Baxter.

"The Mary Tyler Moore Show" was a smash from the start and remains a

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edies. It produced two spinoffs, "Rhoda" and "Phyllis," starring Valerie Harper and Cloris Leachman, respectively, who had portrayed Mary's neighbors.

It was still top-rated when Moore, who played news producer Mary Richards, decided to end it after seven seasons.

MacLeod moved on to "The Love Boat," a romantic comedy in which guest stars, ranging from Gene Kelly to Janet Jackson, would come aboard for a cruise and fall in love with one another.

Although scorned by critics, the series proved immensely popular, lasting 11 seasons and spinning off several TV movies, including two in which MacLeod remained at the cruise ship's helm. It also resulted in his being hired as a TV pitchman for Princess Cruise Lines.

"The critics hated it. They called it mindless TV, but we became goodwill ambassadors," he told the Los Angeles Times in 2013.

Among his final TV credits were "Touched by An Angel," "JAG" and "The King of Queens."

MacLeod's lighthearted screen persona was in contrast to his private life. In his 2013 memoir, "This Is Your Captain Speaking," MacLeod acknowledged that he had struggled with alcoholism in the 1960s and 1970s. He also wrote that



losing his hair at an early age made it hard for him to find work as an actor.

"I went all over town looking for an agent, but no one was interested in representing a young man with a bald head," he wrote. "I knew what I needed to do. I needed to buy myself a hairpiece." A toupee changed his luck "pretty quickly." By middle age, he didn't need the toupee.

In a 2013 interview with The Associated Press, MacLeod frequently invoked the word "grateful" as he reflected on his born-again Christian faith, surviving two heart attacks and his robust life.

"That's a big word in my life. I'm just so grateful I've had another day, another day, another day, kids are doing so well," he said.

MacLeod, whose given name was Allan See, took his first name from a French movie and his last from a drama teacher at New

How to reach us!

TEDAY

BENDR

York's Ithaca College who had encouraged him to pursue an acting career.



Editor

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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)
Richard Brooks
Linda Reijnders

Sales

Linda Reijnders (linda.reijnders@cspnv.com) Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes Joris Zantvoort Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com

¶ @arubatoday



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Tulsa massacre documentaries offer deep dive into tragedy

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. LOS ANGELES (AP) — Several documentary filmmakers — some backed by NBA superstars — are shedding light on the historically ignored Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, one of the most horrific tragedies in American history.

LeBron James and Russell Westbrook are among those releasing documentaries based on the racially motivated massacre. The projects come during the 100th anniversary of the massacre in Greenwood, a Black-owned business district and residential neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

documentary Each uniquely takes a deep dive into how the thriving Greenwood community dubbed Black Wall Street because of the number of Black-owned businesses was decimated in a twoday attack by a white mob. In the aftermath, at least 300 Black people were killed. More than a thousand homes were burned and others looted, leaving roughly 10,000 residents displaced and homeless and the Black business district destroyed.



Americans systematically being run off their land with assets and property being destroyed," said Stanley Nelson, who co-directed "Tulsa Burning: 1921 Race Massacre" with Marco Williams. Westbrook — who formerly played with the Oklahoma City Thunder is an executive producer of the documentary airing Sunday on the History channel.

National Geographic, CNN and PBS will also debut Another documentaries. documentary, "Black Wall by Cineflix Productions, but no network has yet picked it up.

Nelson said all of the projects are much needed and important, especially with the commemoration of the massacre coming near the one-year anniversary of last year's racial reckoning sparked by the death of George Floyd. (A former Minneapolis police officer has since been convicted of murdering Floyd.) "I think the more the (Greenwood) story can be brought to light, the bet-"This has to do with African Street" is being distributed ter," said Nelson, an Emmy

winner. "I'm sure that every film will be totally different. I think there's a special timing here."

Director Salima Koroma said the story should be told more than once. She pitched her Tulsa massacre documentary to some networks nearly five years ago, but drew no interest because she believes the "gatekeepers" weren't ready to welcome the sto-

Eventually, Koroma's project found a home with James and Maverick Carter's The SpringHill Company. She believes the Los Angeles Lakers superstar and Carter's association played a major role in pushing the project forward.

"I just had to get it to the right gatekeepers," said Koroma, director of "Dreamland: The Burning of Black Wall Street" which airs Monday on CNN and later streams on HBO Max.

"They see we have to tell Black stories," she said. "Now everybody's scrambling to tell it. Finally, tell these stories. I think that's what's happening."

Some filmmakers said the story was a tough one to tell because much of the content doesn't exist anymore.

"So how can you tell a feature documentary? ... Now people are putting in the resources to do more than just the photos," Koroma said. "You can do animation or graphics. It's a tough one to tell. But with all our powers combined, we can tell this story."

The Tulsa massacre story had been largely forgotten or unknown to some until HBO series "Watchmen" and "Lovecraft Country" shed light on the dark tragedy within the last two

Oldest American, fastest woman on Everest return safely



Tsang Yin-hung, 45, of Hong Kong who scaled Mount Everest from the base camp in 25 hours and 50 minutes, and became the fastest female climber arrives in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday, May 30, 2021. The Hong Kong teacher and retired attorney from Chicago who became the oldest American to scale Mount Everest, on Sunday returned safely from the mountain where climbing teams have been struggling with bad weather and a coronavirus outbreak. (AP Photo/Bikram Rai)

Associated Press KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA — A retired attorney from Chicago who became the oldest American to scale Mount Everest, and a Hong Kong teacher who is now the fastest female climber of the world's highest peak, on Sunday returned safely from the mountain where climbing teams have struggled with bad weather and a coronavirus outbreak.

Arthur Muir, 75, scaled the peak earlier this month, beating the record set by another American, Bill Burke, at age 67.

Tsang Yin-hung, 45, of Hong Kong scaled the summit from the base camp in 25 hours and 50 minutes, and became the fastest female climber. The record of 10 hours and 56 minutes is held by a Sherpa guide, Lakpa Gelu.

A climbing accident on Everest in 2019, when Muir hurt his ankle falling off a ladder, did not deter him

from attempting to scale the peak again. He began mountaineering late in life, and said he was scared and anxious during his latest adventure.

"You realize how big a mountain it is, how dangerous it is, how many things that could go wrong. Yeah, it makes you nervous, it makes you know some anxiety there and maybe little bit of scared," Muir told reporters in Kathmandu.

"I was just surprised when I actually got to there (the summit) but I was too tired to stand up, and in my summit pictures I am sitting down," he said.

Muir began mountaineering at age 68 with trips to South America and Alaska before attempting Everest in 2019, when he fell off the ladder.

Climbing was closed last year due to the pandemic. Married and a father of three, Muir has six grandchildren. The last one — a boy — was born while he was still in the mountains during his current expedition.

Tsang made only two stops between the base camp, located at 5,300 meters (17,390 feet), to the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) summit to change, and covered the near vertical distance in 25 hours and 50 minutes

She was lucky because there were barely any climbers on the way to the highest camp at South Col. After that, on her way to the summit, she met only climbers making their descent, which did not slow her speed climb.



Bernal adds Giro d'Italia title to Tour de France win

MILAN (AP) — Colombian rider Egan Bernal appears to have finally put his back problems behind him as he added the Giro d'Italia title to his Tour de France win on Sunday.

Bernal, who won the Tour in 2019, safely maintained his advantage on the final day's time trial to Milan. As tradition dictates, he was last off the ramp and the Ineos Grenadiers rider had an overall lead of almost two minutes.

Bernal completed 30.3-kilometer (18.8-mile) route in 35 minutes, 41 seconds to clinch overall victory by 1:29, the biggest margin of victory at the Giro since 2015. He pumped his hands above his head as he crossed the line in front of Milan's famous cathedral.

"It's difficult to realize what I've done. I have just won a Giro d'Italia. I have no words after what happened in these two years," said the 24-year-old Bernal, who has struggled with a lingering back injury that forced him to abandon last vear's Tour.

Damiano Caruso was second overall, with Simon Yates completing the podium. Yates finished 4:15 behind Bernal.



Colombia's Egan Bernal celebrates on podium after completing the final stage to win the Giro d'Italia cycling race, in Milan, Italy, Sunday, May 30, 2021. (Gian Mattia D'Alberto/LaPresse via AP)

er's pink jersey since claiming it by winning the ninth stage with an attack on the summit finish. And, along with his team, he brilliantly defended it along the rest of the route to Milan, where he lifted the impressive Trofeo Senza Fine (never-ending trophy).

"Yes, finally, this is my second Grand Tour (win)," Bernal said. "I think in this moment I look calm but inside I am exploding with happiness. I've already won the Tour and now the Giro.

very special, the way we rode, the way I returned to being a player after nearly two years without good form in a Grand Tour. So, I think it's special."

There were hundreds of fans in Milan's Piazza Duomo celebrating Bernal's victory, many waving Colombia flags and wearing shirts of the country's soccer team.

Bernal's teammate, Filippo Ganna, won the individual time trial despite a late puncture after the Italian's Bernal had worn the lead- "It is my first Giro, and it was closest rival, Rémi Cavag-

na, crashed with about 600 meters to go.

"When I see the puncture, I think, 'Ah, today unlucky, I lose the race'," Ganna said. "I changed the bike really well, really fast, like a Formula One race, and then when I crossed the line I think, 'OK, now will win Cavagna,' because he's a really good rider, really good time trial.

"In the end when I see his crash, I think, 'OK, we have played with the same cards, I puncture and he's crashed,' and the result I think is the same without my puncture and without his crash."

Ganna was the favorite to triumph on the 21st and final stage. He won the opening time trial in Turin and all three time trials in last year's Giro as well as another stage.

Ganna took the lead with a time of 33:48 but his chances of winning seemed precarious as he lost about 20 seconds when he was forced to change bikes after the puncture.

Cavaana looked set to beat his time but the French time trial champion appeared to lock up his brakes at a corner and flipped over his bicycle as Ganna watched from the leader's hot seat.

Cavagna got up unhurt and finished second, 12 seconds behind Ganna. Edoardo Affini was third, a

second further back.

"As a team, we brought home a beautiful result," Ganna said. "Egan Bernal did something wonderful that has been built over these last three weeks.

"We worked hard to keep Egan always at the front of the peloton ... And to arrive today with the pink jersey and celebrate tonight all together I think is a dream of every team."

Joel Embiid, 76ers rout Wizards to take 3-0 series lead

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP **Sports Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joel Embiid shook off the jeers from a missed dunk and made sure he did not miss his next attempt. After throwing the ball down through the rim, he cupped his hands to his ears to encourage the crowd.

"I had the opportunity where I actually made a dunk, so that's why I went over to them and I wanted to hear more boos," Embiid said.

Some booed. Many 76ers fans chanted "M-V-P! M-V-P!" in Embiid's direction. After another valuable performance, Philadelphia is one victory away from a first-round sweep.

Embiid set a career playoff

high with 36 points, and the Sixers routed the Washington Wizards 132-103 on Saturday night to take a 3-0 series lead. Embiid scored 25 points in the first half and finished 14 of 18 from the floor in 28 minutes before resting the entire fourth quarter.

That's the second-fewest minutes by a player who scored 35-plus points since the NBA's shot-clock era began in 1954.

"I can't imagine anybody playing better than him," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "That was MVP-level toniaht. He's definitely a handful." Embiid missing only three shots apart from the botched dunk made it almost impossible to guard the Sixers' other stars. Ben

Simmons scored 14 and had nine assists, Tobias Harris had 20 points, 13 rebounds and five assists, and Danny Green made five 3-pointers to finish with 15. The 76ers shot 58.6% from the field, including 51.5%

from 3-point range. "When you shoot the ball that well, you're going to win a lot of games," coach Doc Rivers said. "We had one of those nights where everything fell for us."

That brought mixed rea tions from the crowd of 10,000, which was the largest to attend an indoor sporting event in the nation's capital in 14 months. Wizards fans didn't have much to cheer about because the game was never closer than four points



Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid (21) gestures to the crowd after his dunk during the first half of Game 3 in a first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Washington Wizards, Saturday, May 29, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Nick Wass)

beyond seven minutes in, The top-seeded 76ers will and Philadelphia led by as many as 31 on the way to the franchise's first 3-0 series lead since 1985.

go for the sweep in Game 4 on Monday.

"That would be incredible," Simmons said. "





Rays' Ryan Thompson on Yankees: 'They hate us'



Everyday triple points

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Tampa Bay reliever Ryan Thompson and his teammates will have no problem getting motivated when the Rays and the New York Yankees renew their intense AL East rivalry on Monday.

"I think a lot of it has to do with their attitude toward us, they hate us and so it's easy for us to get more excited to play those guys," Thompson said on Sunday. "It's kind of how they've behaved in the past couple years with us pitching inside, with them throwing at our guys, stuff like that."

Tampa Bay left-hander Rich Hill and Yankees right-hander Jameson Taillon are the scheduled starters in Monday's opener of a four-game series at Yankee Stadium. "We don't have any reservations about it," Thompson said. "We just go out there and we're like

Totally sanitized table and chips.

we're going to beat those guys. They can talk all the talk they want, they can throw at our guys, we're going to beat them and in the past two years we've definitely done that."

Tampa Bay beat the Yankees in last year's AL Division Series en route to the American League pennant. The Rays have won six of nine, including a 3-0 record in New York, in this year's season series.

"When we play the Yankees, we don't talk about it, it's just something different," Thompson said. "There's a little bit extra that you can just feel it in the room, in the clubhouse and the field. We want to beat those guys."

Hard feelings between the Yankees and Rays go back to at least March 2008, when they clashed in spring training, and tempers have flared repeatedly over the past few years following pitches inside to batters.

Beanballs, dramatic homers and dugout chirping have become commonplace. Last year saw Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman throwing a 101 mph pitch near Mike Brosseau's head on Sept. 1. Brosseau responded by hitting two homers the next day, and connecting on a go-ahead homer off Chapman in the decisive fifth game of the ALDS. The Yankees haven't appeared in the World Series since 2009 when they defeated the Philadelphia Phillies.



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